



All Ears English Episode 165:

Listen or Hear: What's the Difference?

Lindsay: This is an All Ears English Podcast, Episode 165: “Listen or Hear: What’s the Difference?”

[Instrumental]

Gabby: Welcome to the All Ears English Podcast, where you’ll finally get real, native English conversation with your hosts, Lindsay McMahon, the ‘English Adventurer’ and Gabby Wallace, the ‘Language Angel’, from Boston, USA.

[Instrumental]

Gabby: All right, guys. The World Cup finished up, but now it’s time for the World Cup of leaving reviews for All Ears English on iTunes. We noticed that in June we had a lot of new reviews with Spain in the lead as the winner with eight reviews and Japan with seven, US- seven, China- six, and then some other countries left several reviews. But you guys, we wanna (want to) have a competition in August to see which country can leave the most reviews.



Lindsay: This is gonna (going to) be so cool. So we're gonna (going to) be looking for Germany, Thailand, Brazil, Turkey, Russia, Italy, France, Mexico, Argentina, and Korea. Let us see your reviews guys.

Gabby: Step it up and let's see which country can really win for...

Lindsay: Come on!

Gabby: ...reviews in August. We'll let you know the results at the end of August.

Lindsay: Excellent.

[Instrumental]

Gabby: In this episode, you'll finally understand the difference between 'listen' and 'hear' with over four examples and generally what the difference is.

[Instrumental]

Gabby: Hey, Lindsay!

Lindsay: Hey there, Gabby.

Gabby: How ya' (you) doing?

Lindsay: Great.

Gabby: (Uh), could you speak up a little, I can't hear you very well.

Lindsay: I said I'm doing great.

Gabby: Oh, okay. Good, good. All right.

Lindsay: Geez, what's wrong with your hearing? You should go to the doctors to get that checked.

Gabby: I'm okay, I'm all right. Well, we're gonna (going to) talk about the difference between 'listen' and 'hear' in a little bit. But, actually – Lindsay, I wanted to ask you, (um), how things are going with our conversation program because, (you know), we got the 50 reviews in June and, (you know), we promised our listeners that we would provide a connection



with native speakers to practice, (uh), content associated with our episodes so...

Lindsay: (Um). Absolutely. So it's something that's gonna (going to) take some work, so we're working on it, right.

Gabby: We are working on it.

Lindsay: So right now we're planning out this awesome content, what you guys are gonna (going to) be able to do after sitting down and connecting with Americans...

Gabby: (Uh-hm).

Lindsay: ...(uh) online, and right now the program is by invite only.

Gabby: (Uh-hm). Yeah, we're, we're, testing things out. We wanna (want to) make sure that it's ready to go, (uh), and to give you really a high quality service without mistakes or, (you know), problems or technical difficulties, so...

Lindsay: Right.

Gabby: We just wanted to give you a quick update on how things are going and to ask you to, (you know), continue to be patient but keep your ears open, your eyes...

Lindsay: (Uh-hm).

Gabby: ...on our service because it will be coming out this fall.

Lindsay: Absolutely.

Gabby: Excellent.

Lindsay: Great, so...

Gabby: So let's get into Number 15 of our 15 FIXES...

Lindsay: Right.



Gabby: ...your biggest, most common mistakes in English that we're gonna (going to) help you polish up, clean up...

Lindsay: Yeah, we're gonna (going to) help you tune up that Porsche.

Gabby: Yeah, tune up your English which is...

Lindsay: If you have no idea...

Gabby: ...like a Porsche.

Lindsay: ...what we're talking about, you can go back to Episode 157...

Gabby: (Uh-hm).

Lindsay: ...and that will give you the overview of the TOP 15...

Gabby: Right.

Lindsay: ...FIXES and we're gonna (going to) address FIX 15.

Gabby: Yeah, we're getting started today, this Tuesday with, 'listen' versus 'hear'. So that's why I asked Lindsay in the beginning. I, I, said, "Can you speak up I can't hear you." Cause (Because) I wanted to give an example of how I would use 'hear'. So we're discussing what the difference is, and, (you know), even for, for, us it's a little difficult sometimes to say what the difference is because we can use these interchangeably in – with different meanings.

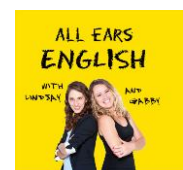
Lindsay: Yeah, but the meaning is quite different.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: And before we go into some examples let's just talk about the core differences in meaning.

Gabby: Sure. Yeah, I would say 'hear' is about your senses. Are you able to hear some noise? Is it audible?

Lindsay: Yeah.



Gabby: Are your ears working?

Lindsay: Right, and I also think that in general, except for some exceptions...

Gabby: (Mm).

Lindsay: ...some phrasal verbs that are different...

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: ...I think that in general hearing is a more passive activity.

Gabby: Right.

Lindsay: So, again, as Gabby said, the senses are taking in the stimuli, right?

Gabby: Right.

Lindsay: The, the raw sounds.

Gabby: Exactly.

Lindsay: But there's no effort being put into it.

Gabby: No, no.

L: Whereas...

G: 'Listen' on the other hand is, is, more active.

Lindsay: (Uh-hm).

Gabby: You're putting some thoughts into what you're hearing. So you're listening with intention.

Lindsay: Intention.

Gabby: And you're trying to understand some information or you're enjoying something, (uh), that's, that you can hear, that, that is audible.

Lindsay: That's it. That's...

Gabby: Okay.



Lindsay: ...the core difference.

Gabby: So we're gonna (going to) show four examples to clarify this. (Um), Lindsay, "Do you like to listen to music?"

Lindsay: "I, I do. Actually I prefer to listen to podcasts."

Gabby: "Ooh! Interesting."

Lindsay: "But I hear a lot of music around my neighborhood, (you know)."

Gabby: "Okay, just from your neighbors..."

Lindsay: "(Mm)."

Gabby: "...like when you're walking by."

Lindsay: "Yeah, sometimes..."

Gabby: "Okay."

Lindsay: "... (you know), my neighbors likes listen, like to listen to music themselves so I end up hearing it. [crosstalk]"

Gabby: "Not on purpose."

Lindsay: "Not on purpose."

Gabby: "Okay. "

Lindsay: "Yeah."

Gabby: Okay.

Lindsay: (Uh-hm). "Did you just hear that fire truck that went by?"

G: "Yeah, I did and there were some noisy traffic I heard too, like a big truck."

L: "Geez. Did you, but you didn't actually try to listen to it right? You tried to..."

G: "No, I just..."



L: "Block that out."

G: "I try to block it out, I don't really listen."

L: "I know I hate the sound of fire trucks. They're so loud."

G: "Yeah, yeah."

L: "(Ugh)."

G: "(You know), living in Boston you hear a lot of noise from traffic, fire trucks, ambulances, people, music..."

L: "Oh my gosh. Sometimes..."

G: "Cities are noisy."

L: "...it's overwhelming. You hear a lot that you don't wanna (want to) hear."

G: "That's right."

L: "So I always try not to listen to it."

G: All right. "Oh, hey, is your colleague still listening to the radio cause (because)..."

L: "Down the hall?"

G: "Yeah."

Lindsay: "I know she was listening. Maybe we should check because I'm hearing, (you know), parts of the music..."

Gabby: "Yeah."

Lindsay: "...and it's just really knocking me off my center here."

Gabby: "Yeah, yeah, it's, it's, it's kind of, (um), distracting to hear that noise."

Lindsay: "Yeah, I can't even..."

Gabby: "Okay."



Lindsay: "...hear myself think."

Gabby: "Oh!"

Lindsay: "Oh."

Gabby: All right listeners. (Um), we've shown you a few examples here which we help – we, we, hope help clarify. We hope that they help to clarify the distinction between 'listen' and 'hear'. So we just wanted to talk about this because we have noticed some confusion. (Um), I've heard English learners say, "I like to hear music," but I don't think that's what you mean. I think you mean you like to listen to music because saying you like to hear music is something you can't control. That means your neighbor is listening to music or, (you know), maybe in your head you hear music but you're not really controlling it. So, as Lindsay said, 'listen' is more active, it's something you have control over. You put some focus or some energy toward, (um), toward listening.

Lindsay: Exactly, that's it.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: So before you're getting ready to go into a conversation try reviewing this podcast and try to use both terms in a conversation...

Gabby: Yeah, absolutely.

Lindsay: ...to solidify the learning in your brain.

Gabby: Yeah. Okay, great guys. Thanks for *listening* and we'd love to 'hear' back from you.

Lindsay: Oh.

Gabby: To throw in a, a, an expression there just to confuse things a little bit.

Lindsay: (Uh-hm).



Gabby: But yeah we'd love to hear from you. So leave us a comment on our blog, AllEarsEnglish.com/165 or I hope we hear from you also on Facebook and Twitter. So...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: ...keep the conversation going.

[Instrumental]

Lindsay: If you wanna (want to) put your ears into English more often, be sure to subscribe to our podcast in iTunes on your computer or on your smartphone. Thanks so much for listening and see you next time.

